

Panel 3 Title: Legendary Locals of Camas

Intro: For generations, people have lived in, worked in, and brought strength to the downtown Camas community. Within the walls of businesses and homes that make up downtown and the environs were many lives that affected the story of this town. These are just a cross-section of those stories.

Aeneas McMasters: A Business Owner

Appointed director of the Glasgow Canadian Land and Trust Company in 1875, hard-working Scottish immigrant Aeneas McMasters was always looking for new business opportunities. Upon a visit to Camas around 1883, McMasters built a 20-by-40 foot building consisting of a general store and living quarters above. McMasters General Store became the social stronghold of the city, housing lodge meetings, gatherings, and church services.

Hugh McMasters: A Public Servant

Born in Glasgow, Hugh McMasters immigrated to Canada with his parents, then to Camas in 1883. He cleared the ground for the first paper mill, paying workers 59 cents per day. After his father's passing in 1888, McMasters took over the family's goods and hardware store until 1933. For a number of years he served as mayor of Camas, and later he was city clerk from 1935 to 1944.

John D. Currie: A Lawyer

John and Alice Currie moved to Camas on July 4, 1911. From a list of towns needing lawyers, the couple chose Camas. John's practice was welcomed by Camas citizens, who elected him the first city attorney in 1911. Currie helped organize the Farmer's Co-operative Creamery, Clark County Savings and Loan (Riverview Community Bank), and the Spanish War Veterans Lodge. He was 1949's "Camas First Citizen." Currie conducted the Boy Rangers outdoor program, now commemorated by Camp Currie.

Oscar F. Johnson: A Banker

O. F. Johnson arrived in newly incorporated Camas in 1908 with hopes of opening a bank. The Camas State Bank, Camas's first brick building, opened November 2, 1908. Johnson was its first cashier, later becoming its president. In 1915, Camas Bank became First National Bank and moved to the new Urie building. It was the only bank in Clark County to survive the stock market crash of 1929, remaining in good standing with uninterrupted service.

Louisa Wright: A Doctor

Louisa Wright, Clark County's first woman doctor, was the second physician in the county of either sex to have actually earned a medical degree. From a modest salary as a school teacher, she saved enough to attend Oregon Medical School and then the University of Michigan, where she earned her medical degree in 1885 at age 23. In 1887, she began her practice in Camas and cared for residents of the city and its environs.

Kelley Loe: An Editor

Kelley Loe, born 1881, served as a labor activist and writer and was the founder of the *LaCamas Post*, later the *Camas Post-Record*, in 1908 and the *Ridgefield Reflector*, known now as *The Reflector*, in 1909. During the Depression, Loe acted as spokesperson and organizer for the American Federation of Labor, which at the time was the largest labor union in the country.

Henry Pittock: An Industrialist

At age 19, Henry Pittock made his way from Pittsburgh along the Oregon Trail in search of his fortune, settling with his soon-to-be wife, Georgiana, in Portland. Henry found work at *The Oregonian* as a typesetter. In 1861, Henry was given control and ownership of *The Oregonian* as a settlement for back wages. Today *The Oregonian* still prints on the success of Pittock and his contributions to the paper industry. In 1883, Pittock and associates organized the La Camas Colony Company and soon after built and operated the first paper mill here. As a result, the City of Camas was founded.

Wilmar Swank: An Entrepreneur

Considered one of Camas's founding entrepreneurs, Wilmar Swank had his hands in many trades. Opening a furniture store and then a funeral home, which would later become Crown Home Furnishings and Straub's Funeral Home, he carried with him the strong work ethics of his parents. Following his business ventures, Swank opened the first undertaking business between Vancouver and Goldendale, where he continued to work until his death in 1952.

Lawrence Beauchamp A Fire Chief

Lawrence Beauchamp is best known for his innovations in the fire safety community. During his tenure as fire chief in Camas between 1949 and 1960, Beauchamp toured the local region, speaking at fire safety conventions and conferences. Outside of fire safety, Beauchamp organized and launched the CAROL program, which provides Christmas baskets to families in need. Upon his retirement in 1960, Beauchamp served as a county commissioner and was instrumental in the negotiation of Round Lake Park.

Edward Tidland: An Inventor

Edward Tidland was a skilled engineer and inventor. He served as a master mechanic for Crown Willamette Paper Mill and later consulting engineer at Pacific Coast Supplies. Tidland eventually received a patent for the Air Shaft, an important paper industry innovation. This led Edward and his son Robert to found the Tidland Machine Company in 1951.

Paul and Barbara Runyan: A Generous Business

Paul Runyan and his wife, Barbara, were third-generation owners of one of Camas's staple businesses, Runyan's Jewelers. Believing that it takes a businessperson to help a government agency run smoothly, Runyan used his sound practices to navigate a successful 14-year run as a commissioner for the Clark County Public Utilities District. He also acted as a volunteer firefighter and medical technician for 25 years. To this day, Runyan's Jewelers has remained a family-run business.

Nora Self: An Administrator

Nora Self was a renowned Camas educator and dedicated citizen. In 1938, Nora Self Hall, a center for community gatherings and outreach to local children, was named in her honor. With a passion for the betterment of the community, she was appointed to the county's public assistance committee in the 1950s. Self also received Camas's first "Woman of Achievement" award and was recognized by Washington State University for "promoting public interest in community welfare." After many years of classroom teaching, Self finished her 33-year career in education as principal of Camas High School.

Nan Henriksen: A Mayor

Nan Henriksen was the first elected female mayor for the city of Camas, and to this day is celebrated as a visionary. In 2006, the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce named her "Political Leader of the Century." Nan was a key player in bringing new opportunity for investment to Camas. Her work to create a light industrial park in West Camas is a testament to her efforts on behalf of the city.

Virginia Warren: A Historian

Virginia Warren's knowledge of Camas dates back to when she was an employee at the Liberty Theater while growing up. As an adult, Warren became Camas's historian, spending more than seven decades collecting, researching, and writing Camas's history. Portions of her collection are now held and available for researchers at the Camas Public Library.

C. R. "Bob" and Roberta Tidland: An Innovating Family

Bob and Roberta were owners and operators of Tidland Machine Company, which opened in 1951. Coming from a rich heritage of machinists, Bob and his father, Edward, were the inventors of the Air Shaft, a paper machine component with a collapsible metal core that remedied the issue of damage to large rolls of paper during production. Tidland Machine Company started here in Camas, grew into the Tidland Corporation, and had seven plants internationally until its purchase in 1995 upon Bob Tidland's retirement.

Hal Zimmerman: A Leader

Hal Zimmerman and his wife, Judy, purchased the *Camas-Washougal Post-Record* in 1957 and ran it for 23 years. In 1966, Hal was elected to the state senate, where he served until 1988. He then retired so he and Judy could travel to more than 80 countries.

Dr. Mike Barratt: An Astronaut

Dr. Mike Barratt joined NASA in 2000 in internal and aerospace medicine. During his career, Dr. Barratt served as the flight engineer for Expedition 19/20 to the International Space Station. He also helped develop NASA's space medicine program for Shuttle-Mir and the International Space Station.

Denis Hayes: An Activist

Denis Hayes is an environmental activist and solar power proponent. More notably, Hayes is the coordinator of the first Earth Day and the founder of the Earth Day Network. He was honored by *Time* magazine as "Hero of the Planet." Having grown up in Camas, Hayes Freedom High School was built and named in his honor by the Camas School District. The elements of the

school were designed to meet Hayes's ideals of protecting nature and enriching the learning process.

Jimmie Rodgers: A Singer/Songwriter

Born in Camas in 1933, Jimmie Rodgers wrote and sang more than 30 US chart hits spanning three decades, including "Kisses Sweeter Than Wine" and "Honeycomb." He has appeared on TV shows such as American Bandstand and Hootenanny. In 2013, Northwest 10th Avenue in Camas was renamed "Jimmie Rodgers Avenue" to honor the famed Camas artist.

For more information about these legendary Camasonians and more, read "Camas" by Pat Jollota or "Legendary Locals of Camas and Washougal" by Rene Johnston Carroll.